



NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS ALLIANCE

Thursday, April 24, 2008

4:00 p.m.

One Water Street

In Attendance: James Donaldson, Pat Sylvester, Missy Shives, Willie Thompson, Sandra Russell, Barber Thompson, Anne Lyles, Betty Carli, Barbara Perry, Suzanne Casey, James A. Alexander, Sara Robinson, Gretta H. Saunders, William C. Peoples, Jr., Shirley Johnson, Dorothy Campbell, Clayton Campbell, Almeader Holt, Mary S. Hardin, Sarah Hawkins, Greta Connor, Bill Safrit, Sue McHugh.

Staff: Lynn Raker, Janet Gapen, Ann Cooper, Diana Moghrabi

MINUTES

This meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Greta Connor. Introductions were made.

- Lynn Raker made a presentation that offered background on deteriorated housing; the current status is as a top City Council priority for 2008-2009. A cross-section of City Departments has worked on this issue and made recommendations to the City Manager. Two top recommendations include tighter housing standards and tighter enforcement. It has been acknowledged that it is difficult for staff to work enforcement as a unit as it is currently structured.

It is important to have a well-organized plan. The establishment of a Housing Commission would be a way to hear complaints and make recommendations. Houses are allowed to stay boarded up for too long; there needs to be a time limit and it needs to be enforced. Funding to address problems could come from local and federal grants.

- January 1, 2008, the new land development code was adopted; it includes the restriction of parking on front lawns. Contact the City's Development Services Department to report a problem. The information needs to be put on Access 16, in the Salisbury Post, and distributed as a water bill insert (in English and Spanish). There needs to be an explanation to the residents of Salisbury about why they cannot park in their front yards. (Parking on sidewalks is illegal and the public needs more education on this, too.)
- Janet Gapen updated the group on the North Main Area Plan. Top themes include sidewalk installation--notably on West Miller Street. Through grants and the City Council funding infrastructure, we hope to have a connection of sidewalk between Hurley Park and the hospital.

Salisbury has been identified as a member of the Fit Community program. Salisbury hopes to create partnerships in programming and physical aspects.

- The lack of a Kelsey Scott Park connection to the greenway was discussed. Someone recommended that a connection go beside the railroad and through the neighborhood garden. People at this meeting have concerns for their safety and do not walk the greenway.
- There was an energetic discussion about people in Salisbury using pit bulls as weapons and as a means of intimidation. The dogs can break loose and hurt someone—especially a child. Mr. Peoples felt there needs to be a vicious dog ordinance that could be enforced. (There currently is no ordinance.) These dogs need to be muzzled and the owners need to be licensed. Through his experience on the gang task force, Mr. Peoples sees pit bull dog ownership as a growing trend. The breeding of pit bulls is a problem, too.

It was noted that a spray bottle of ammonia is an effective deterrent on loose dogs.

Ann Cooper suggested that those interested meet with Ann Frye. The voice of neighborhoods could be heard through a petition. It was suggested that we look at the Charlotte Ordinance and include the County in the discussion. (Later it was noted that the County has refused Salisbury assistance.)

A meeting was set for Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 4 p.m., at City Hall in the first floor conference room. The following wish to participate:

James N. Alexander (Milford Hills)
Sara Robinson (Sedgefield Acres)
Suzanne Casey (City Park)
William Peoples
Barbara Perry
Betty Carli (West Square)
Anne Lyles (Brooklyn South Square)
Sandra Russell (Fairview Heights)
Lou Manning (Park Avenue)
Pat Sylvester (N. Main)
James Donaldson (Jersey City)
Ann Cooper
Mary Hardin
Dorothy Campbell

- The group took a look at issues discussed at the S.N.A.G. meetings. Crime at the Hess fuel station on W. Innes Street continues to be a serious problem. There have been five recent break-ins on Messner Street. Salaries for law enforcement affect the long-term stability of our police department. There is a shortage of patrol and a shortage of officers.

- Neighborhood entrance sign installation at Jersey City has been stalled due to drainage issues at the entrance of the neighborhood. Fairview Heights has yet to receive their signs for other reasons.
- Lou Manning reported a quarterly cleanup in the Park Avenue neighborhood that has been successful. Sedgefield Acres reports neighborhood clean up every other week. Livingstone College has been making a difference with the students' efforts on Institute Street.
- Neighborhood cleanup kits were made available at this meeting.
- Steve Weatherford reported to staff that the Spring Spruce Up was a little lighter this year. He did note that they picked up 140 tires that might have otherwise polluted the environment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

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